

IN THE CLAIMS

1-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) ~~An entertainmentA system for distributing content data,~~ comprising:

a data server; and

a plurality of data terminals, each operable to receive content data from said a—data server, the content data including at least one of reproducible program content data or executable program content data, each of said plurality of data terminals being operable to perform at least one of reproducing a program including at least one of audio or video from the reproducible program content data, or executing a program using the executable program content data in accordance with input from a user,

wherein said data server is operable to distribute ~~transmit~~ the content data to ones of said plurality of data terminals over an electronic data network in accordance with ~~respective user-set content distribution schedules set by~~ ~~distribution requests of users of said ones of said plurality of~~ data terminals, and is operable to determine whether the electronic data network is congested before distributing the content data, such that when the data server determines that in an order of transmission at least partly determined by at least one of: a plurality of priorities assigned to users of said plurality of data terminals, or a state of congestion of the electronic data network is not congested, the data server distributes the content data to said ones of said plurality of data terminals according to the respective user-set content distribution schedules.

18. (currently amended) The ~~entertainment~~—system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said data server further includes a

database storing the-a plurality of priorities assigned to users of said plurality of data terminals, said data server being further operable to access the stored priorities in determining the-an order of transmissiondistribution.

19. (currently amended) The ~~entertainment~~-system as claimed in claim ~~17~~18, wherein the plurality of priorities includes a first priority and a second priority and when the state of congestion of said data server determines that the electronic data network is congested, said data server is operable to transmit-distribute the content data in the order of transmission-distribution to a first set of said plurality of data terminals used by users assigned a first priority before said data server transmits-distributes the content data to a second set of said plurality of data terminals used by users assigned a second priority.

20. (currently amended) The ~~entertainment~~-system as claimed in claim 17, wherein each of said plurality of data terminals is operable to receive selection input from a respective user for selecting a program and to request the user-selected program from said data server, and said data server is operable to transmit-distribute the content data corresponding to the user-selected program to said one of said plurality of data terminals which requests the user-selected program according to the user-set content distribution schedule of the respective user.

21. (currently amended) The ~~entertainment~~-system as claimed in claim 20, wherein the content data corresponds to a plurality of independent selectable programs, said data server includes a storage unit operable to store the content data, and said data server is operable to select the content data corresponding to the user-selected program from the content data stored in said

storage unit and to ~~transmit—distribute~~ the selected content data to said one data terminal.

22. (currently amended) The ~~entertainment~~—system as claimed in claim 17, wherein each one of said plurality of data terminals is operable to record a timing for receiving the content data prior to receiving the content data when setting the user-set content distribution schedule, and the order of transmission is at least partly determined by the recorded timings of said plurality of data terminals.

23. (currently amended) The ~~entertainment~~—system as claimed in claim 22, wherein each one of said plurality of data terminals is operable to request said data server to ~~transmit—distribute~~ the content data in accordance with the recorded timing recorded by that data terminal.

24. (currently amended) The ~~entertainment~~—system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said data server is operable to ~~record the timings and to transmit—distribute~~ the content data to said plurality of data terminals in accordance with the recorded timings recorded by said plurality of data terminals.

25. (currently amended) The ~~entertainment~~—system as claimed in claim 17, wherein each one of said plurality of data terminals is further operable to store the content data received from said data server prior to performing said at least one of reproducing said—the program or executing the program.

26.-46. (canceled)

47. (new) The system for distributing content data as claimed in claim 17, wherein said data server includes a database for storing individual information regarding individual levels of users of said plurality of data terminals, such that when the electronic data network is congested said data server is operable to obtain the individual information regarding the

individual levels of the users of said plurality of data terminals and to distribute the content data to at least some of the users in accordance with the respective user-set content distribution schedules when the individual levels of the at least some users are high.

48. (new) The system for distributing content data as claimed in claim 47, wherein when the electronic data network is congested, said data server is operable to periodically monitor the individual information regarding the individual levels to determine whether to distribute the content data in accordance with the respective user-set content distribution schedules.

49. (new) The new system for distributing content data as claimed in claim 17, wherein when said data server makes a determination not to distribute the content data to a respective one of said plurality of data terminals in accordance with the respective user-set content distribution schedule, said data server is operable to transmit determination information to the respective data terminal indicating that determination.